Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 051579

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TAGS:EINV, SGEN, SOPN

SUBJECT: EXAMPLES OF GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

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PAGE 02 STATE 051579

1. STATE (CU), IN COOPERATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR GROUPS, IS CONDUCTING A LONG-TERM PROGRAM TO EDUCATE TOP U.S. CORPORATE MANAGEMENT IN THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS (MNC'S) ON THE ADVANTAGES TO BOTH CORPORATE AND USG OBJECTIVES OF THE MAINTENANCE OF HIGH STANDARDS OF CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP IN THE FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHERE THEY HAVE SUBSIDIARIES OR AFFILIATES. THE BACKGROUND AND PHILOSOPHY OF THIS PROGRAM

ARE SET FORTH IN STATE A-2902 OF APRIL 25, 1975.

2. THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS OF, AND INTEREST IN, THIS SUBJECT AMONG THE MORE PROGRESSIVE AMERICAN MNC'S HAS BEEN SHARPLY HEIGHTENED SINCE 1975 DUE TO SUCH FACTORS AS THE DAMAGING IMPACT OF RECENT BRIBERY SCANDALS, SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPTS IN THE OECD, UN, AND ILO TO DRAFT GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE MNC CODES OF CONDUCT, INCREASING CRITICISM OF THE MNC'S THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND THE RECENT PUBLICATION OF SEVERAL INDIVIDUAL COMPANY CODES OF CONDUCT OF VARYING QUALITY. WE ARE SEEKING TO BUILD ON THIS MOMENTUM BY CO-SPONSORING A SERIES OF SEMINARS, BOTH IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD, AT WHICH AMERICAN MNC EXECUTIVES WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FULLY AMONG THEMSELVES THE PROS

AND CONS, THE ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS, AND THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNIQUES OF CONDUCTING WELL-CONCEIVED AND APPROPRIATELY TAILORED CORPORATE PROGRAMS OF SOCIAL ACTION IN THEIR VARIOUS HOST COUNTRIES OF OPERATION. THE OPTIMUM USG ROLE IN SUPPORT OF SUCH CORPORATE INITIATIVES WILL ALSO BE THOROUGHLY AIRED AT THE SEMINARS.

3. IN PREPARATION FOR THIS PHASE OF THE PROGRAM, U.S. AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPANTS ARE EAGER TO BUILD UP A SOLID CASE FILE OF EXAMPLES OF CONSTRUCTIVE MNC CORPORATE INITIATIVES IN THE HOST COUNTRY ENVIRON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 051579

MENT WHICH COULD BE USED, IN PROPERLY SANITIZED FORM, FOR EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH PURPOSES. THE EXAMPLES WE ARE SEEKING ARE THOSE WHICH GO BEYOND PROGRAMS OF DIRECT BENEFIT TO THE COMPANIES THEMSELVES (E.G. LABOR TRAINING PROJECTS) OR THOSE REQUIRED BY LOCAL LAW OR CUSTOM. A TYPICAL EXAMPLE MIGHT BE THE APPLICATION OF COMPANY MANAGERIAL OR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO THE SOLUTION OF A LOCALLY-PERCEIVED COMMUNITY PROBLEM.

4. ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT TELEGRAPHICALLY BY APRIL 14 AS MANY EXAMPLES OF GOOD MNC CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP IN THEIR HOST COUNTRIES AS THEY CAN READILY DEVELOP WITHOUT EXTENSIVE RESEARCH AND AS TIME PERMITS. EXAMPLES MAY BE DRAWN FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF FOREIGN AS WELL AS AMERICAN MNC'S. COMPANIES NEED BE IDENTIFIED ONLY BY THE BROAD INDUSTRIAL CATEGORY TO WHICH THEY BELONG (E.G. TEXTILE MANUFACTURING, BANKING, COMPUTER SERVICES, ETC.). EACH EXAMPLE SHOULD INCLUDE A VERY BRIEF NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE CORPORATE ACTION INVOLVED AND A COMMENT ON THE BENEFIT, IF ANY, ACCRUING TO THE COMPANY IN TERMS OF ITS STATUS IN THE HOST COUNTRY. INCIDENTS ALREADY REPORTED MAY BE SIMPLY

REFERENCED. LOCAL AMCHAMS, WHERE THEY EXIST, HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO THIS PROJECT THROUGH THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH THEM. UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMORS OR PRESS REPORTS SHOULD NOT BE UTILIZED.

5. COMMERCE AND USIA HAVE CLEARED THIS MESSAGE. REPLIES SHOULD BE SLUGGED FOR STATE CU/PC. VANCE

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